



The Value of Arizona Family Literacy

Arizona Family Literacy provides comprehensive, family-centered programs to families who have the lowest incomes, the lowest level of adult literacy and who have one or more children under age eight.

Family Literacy is an intergenerational effort intended to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by enhancing the educational opportunities of all family members. Family Literacy is authorized under:

- The **Workforce Investment Act** which requires states to develop strategic plans outlining ways they intend to improve adult education and family literacy services
- The **Head Start Act** to ensure that children from low income families have access to high quality preschool programs
- The **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001** to ensure that every child reads well by the end of third grade and which supports the Even Start comprehensive family literacy program



Components of Family Literacy

Arizona Family Literacy Programs integrate six service components: **early childhood education, adult basic education, parental education, parent-child literacy activities, community service/volunteering activities, and home-based instruction.**

Family Literacy is defined within federal statutes as services that are **of sufficient intensity in terms of hours and duration to make sustainable changes in a family** and that integrate all of the following activities:

- Interactive literacy between parents and their children
- Training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children
- Parent literacy education that leads to economic self-sufficiency
- Age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences
- Experiential school and community service that builds skills, language fluency and community integration
- Transfer of educational concepts and values into the home and the family

Of the publicly funded pre-school programs in Arizona, **Family Literacy Programs serve the most educationally and economically disadvantaged families.** Twenty-one programs provide 16 – 20 hours per week of comprehensive family literacy services at 50 sites across Arizona.

- **29%** of these families have incomes under \$10,000
- **55%** of these families have incomes under \$15,000
- **90%** of these families have incomes under \$25,000
- **96%** of the families are Hispanic and **90%** have Spanish as their primary language

Data provided by Arizona Department of Education Division of Adult and Family Literacy Education

Effectiveness of Family Literacy

Family Literacy is unique in that it targets families most in need within communities.

Benefits to Children: Early education helps improve the cognitive and academic functioning of children and enables them to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Benefits to Adults: Adult and parenting education provide a positive educational experience as parents develop basic life and employment skills. A parent's educational attainment is one of the best predictors of their child's academic success.

Benefits to Families: Family Literacy addresses the literacy needs of the whole family and supports parents in their role as their child's first and most influential teachers.

Outcomes of Family Literacy 2001 – 2002

- **76%** of adults made significant educational gains
- **77%** of adults with a goal of entering employment, met their goal
- **88%** of adults with a goal of retaining or improving employment, met their goal
- **57%** of adults with a goal of obtaining a GED, did so
- **77%** of adults with a goal of entering post-secondary education or training, did so
- **80%** of the parents increased involvement in their children's literacy and education
- **71%** of the children served **made significant language gains**
- **74%** of the children served **made significant problem-solving gains**
- **60%** of the five year old children **showed readiness for Kindergarten**
- **80,270.55** Community Service hours were performed by families in schools and community based organizations
- **\$413,393.33** in-kind service, based upon minimum wage, was generated by Community Service hours

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Arizona Family Literacy Outcomes

